

[Mrs. Frank Montague]

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McGuire, Delise

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Floyd County

District 17 [?]

"Hillcrest"

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Bibliography

(Interview with Mrs. Frank Montague)

In 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Montague, then a young bride and groom started out to make their home in this western country, settling on a section of land 16 miles northeast of Floydada . They purchased the land from the State of Texas for \$1.00 per acre and a set of improvements that were on the place from L. H. Lewis for \$300.00. The land had also formerly belonged to Mr. Lewis but he had turned it back to the government.

Before the establishment of a Postoffice at the Montague home the mail was carried from Floydada to Childress by stage and the teams were changed at [?] their home. Mrs. Montague's brother, Charlie Wilson, still a [?] of Floyd County was one of the first stage drivers.

Mr. and Mrs. Montague decided they needed a Post Office and made application for it in 1898. Mrs. Montague, now a resident of Floydada tells about it in [?] own words: "The

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first thing we did was to get a Post Office director and search it through to see that we did not submit a duplicate name. Also we had to have only one word as two words were not accepted then as names for Post Offices we had just read a sweet little story entitled, Hillcrest,, and as I remember it, it was something about a young couple just starting out in life. This was an idea and so Hillcrest was the name submitted. It was accepted and the new Hillcrest Post Office was created in 1898 [?????] 2 “We thought too, the name was appropriate for the location since our home was the first one after you came upon the cap / rock. It was very romantic and a great thrill to us when we were informed that our name, Hillcrest, had been accepted by the Post Office Department. Mr. Montague was supposed to be the postmaster but in reality I did the work. He kept pretty busy with his other work, occasionally he carried the mail, using a two wheel cart, drawn by two Spanish mules. They were driven in a dead run.

“The Mail Carriers were true westerners, coming rain or snow and serving the whole countryside by bringing from pins to plows. Lots of times there were passengers on the stage and we soon made provision to take care of passengers and also drivers who would spend the night in bad weather. [????]

The first mail carrier was Festus A. Steen, brother, of Homer Steen, now Editor of the Floyd County Hesperian; second, Horse Edwards; Third, Tom W. Deen, now County Judge of Floyd County; fourth, C. W. Thagard; fifth, Jno. Fawver.

Mr. and Mrs. Montague moved to Floydada in 1901 and the Post Office was moved to the W. B. Crabtree place, 14 mi crow flight, northeast of Floydada. It was discontinued in 1910

The old Hillcrest / Post / Office building was moved to Floydada when the Montague's came and it was used as their residence. Later it was sold to J. H. Shurbet and has the distinction of being the first house on South Main Street. Finally Mr. Shurbet moved

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the house to his property near Muncy, where it stands today on the floydada and [?]
highway